



League of Women Voters of Montana

HB 490

EXHIBIT ~~12~~ 13
DATE 2/14/2011
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Mr. Chairman and members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I am Rita Blouke, vice-president of the Helena Area League of Women Voters, here today on behalf of the LWV of Montana, to speak in opposition to HB 490. The League is a non-partisan organization that studies issues, reaches member consensus, and then takes positions based on those areas of agreement.

We believe there are a number of reasons to resist this bill:

- This bill is intended to erode the legality of abortion as established by *Roe vs. Wade*.
- If passed this bill could face challenges based on U. S. Constitution issues such as privacy and equal protection.
- Unintended consequences of this bill could be medical issues such as bans on the most common birth control methods because they interfere with the implantation of the fertilized egg.
- If passed this bill could face challenges based on the Montana Constitution right to privacy, from Article II Section 10.
- This bill undermines an individual's right to make decisions about her own life without government intrusion.

The League of Women Voters US has studied the issue of reproductive choice since 1972. We continue to believe decisions about reproductive choice must be left to women and their doctors. Our position states, "*The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that public policy in a pluralistic society must affirm the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.*" *Impact on Issues 2006-2008, League of Women Voters of the United States, page 23.* Because we believe this proposal is aimed tearing down the constitutional right to privacy, we oppose HB 490.

Rita Blouke,

Legislative Steering Committee

League of Women Voters of Montana